

Application No. 10/661,020
Preliminary Amendment Dated April 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

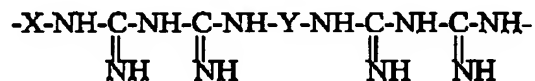
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising:

- a) a material, said material comprising a surface;
- b) an anionic surfactant on said surface; and
- c) a polymeric biguanide noncovalently bonded to said anionic surfactant.

2. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymeric biguanide is a recurring unit of the following formula, or a salt thereof:



wherein X and Y are bridging groups that may be the same or different, such that the number of N to N carbon atoms within X plus the number of N to N carbon atoms within Y is in the range 9 to 17, where the number of N to N carbon atoms within a bridging group is the number of backbone carbon atoms that, in that group, separate the N atoms adjacent to that group.

3. (Withdrawn) A composition of Claim 2 wherein the polymeric biguanide is polyhexamethylene biguanide (PHMB).

4. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the concentration of the polymeric biguanide is in the range 5 to 50 mg per square meter of the surface.

Application No. 10/661,020
Preliminary Amendment Dated April 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005

5. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 4 wherein the concentration of the polymeric biguanide is in the range 8 to 19 mg per square meter of the surface.

6. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polymeric biguanide is limited to a zone of said surface.

7. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 6 wherein the concentration of the polymeric biguanide in the zone is in the range 5 to 50 mg per square meter of the zone.

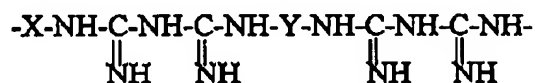
8. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 7 wherein the concentration of the polymeric biguanide in the zone is in the range 8 to 19 mg per square meter of the zone.

9. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is produced by a process comprising the steps of:

- (1) pre-treating the surface of the composition with the anionic surfactant, and then
- (2) applying the polymeric biguanide to the surface.

10. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 9 wherein the polymeric biguanide is applied to the surface using a kiss-on or brush roller.

11. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 10, wherein the polymeric biguanide is a recurring unit of the following formula, or a salt thereof:



wherein X and Y are bridging groups that may be the same or different, such that the number of N to N carbon atoms within X plus the number of N to N carbon atoms within Y is in

Application No. 10/661,020
Preliminary Amendment Dated April 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005

the range 9 to 17, where the number of N to N carbon atoms within a bridging group is the number of backbone carbon atoms that, in that group, separate the N atoms adjacent to that group.

12. (Withdrawn) A composition of Claim 11 wherein the polymeric biguanide is PHMB.

13. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 9 wherein the polymeric biguanide is applied to the surface using a spray or foam comprising the polymeric biguanide.

14. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the material is a liquid-pervious nonwoven web.

15. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 14 wherein the web has a weight in the range 10 to 30 gram per square meter.

16. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the material is a liquid-pervious apertured film.

17. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 16 wherein the material has a weight in the range 15 to 40 grams per square meter.

18. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the material comprises fibers.

19. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 18 wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of staple fibers and continuous fibers.

20. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 18 wherein the fibers are part of a carded web.

21. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 18 wherein the fibers have been spunbond, thermally bonded, ultrasonically bonded, adhesively bonded, or combined by hydroentangling.

Application No. 10/661,020
Preliminary Amendment Dated April 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005

22. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 18 wherein the anionic surfactant was added as a melt additive to the fibers.

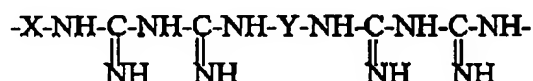
23. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the composition is a topsheet for use in an absorbent article.

24. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 23 wherein the absorbent article is selected from the group consisting of a disposable diaper, a disposable incontinence pad and a disposable feminine hygiene pad.

25. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising:

- a) a material, said material comprising an anionic surface; and
- b) a polymeric biguanide noncovalently bonded to said anionic surface.

26. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 25, wherein the polymeric biguanide is a recurring unit of the following formula, or a salt thereof:



wherein X and Y are bridging groups that may be the same or different, such that the number of N to N carbon atoms within X plus the number of N to N carbon atoms within Y is in the range 9 to 17, where the number of N to N carbon atoms within a bridging group is the number of backbone carbon atoms that, in that group, separate the N atoms adjacent to that group.

27. (Withdrawn) A composition of Claim 26 wherein the polymeric biguanide is PHMB.

Application No. 10/661,020
Preliminary Amendment Dated April 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005

28. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 25 wherein the concentration of the polymeric biguanide is in the range 5 to 50 mg per square meter of the surface.

29. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 28 wherein the concentration of the polymeric biguanide is in the range 8 to 19 mg per square meter of the surface.

30. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 25 wherein the polymeric biguanide is limited to a zone of said surface.

31. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 30 wherein the concentration of the polymeric biguanide in the zone is in the range 5 to 50 mg per square meter of the zone.

32. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 31 wherein the concentration of the polymeric biguanide in the zone is in the range 8 to 19 mg per square meter of the zone.

33. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 25, wherein said composition is produced by a process comprising the steps of:

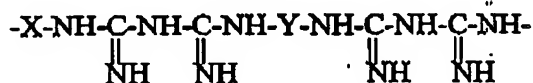
(2)(1) pre-treating the surface of the composition with the anionic surfactant, and
then

(2) applying the polymeric biguanide to the surface.

34. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 33 wherein the polymeric biguanide is applied to the surface using a kiss-on or brush roller.

Application No. 10/661,020
Preliminary Amendment Dated April 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005

35. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 34, wherein the polymeric biguanide is a recurring unit of the following formula, or a salt thereof:



wherein X and Y are bridging groups that may be the same or different, such that the number of N to N carbon atoms within X plus the number of N to N carbon atoms within Y is in the range 9 to 17, where the number of N to N carbon atoms within a bridging group is the number of backbone carbon atoms that, in that group, separate the N atoms adjacent to that group.

36. (Withdrawn) A composition of Claim 35 wherein the polymeric biguanide is PHMB.

37. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 33 wherein the polymeric biguanide is applied using a spray or foam comprising the polymeric biguanide.

38. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 25 wherein the material is a liquid-pervious nonwoven web.

39. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 38 wherein the web has a weight in the range 10 to 30 gram per square.

40. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 25 wherein the material is a liquid-pervious apertured film.

41. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 40 wherein the material has a weight in the range 15 to 40 grams per square meter.

42. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 25 wherein the material comprises fibers.

Application No. 10/661,020
Preliminary Amendment Dated April 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005

43. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 42 wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of staple fibers and continuous fibers.

44. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 42 wherein the fibers are part of a carded web.

45. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 42 wherein the fibers have been spunbond, thermally bonded, ultrasonically bonded, adhesively bonded, or bonded by hydroentangling.

46. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 25 wherein the composition is a topsheet for use in an absorbent article.

47. (Withdrawn) The composition of Claim 46 wherein the absorbent article is selected from the group consisting of a disposable diaper, a disposable incontinence pad and a disposable feminine hygiene pad.

48. (Currently Amended) The An absorbent article of Claim 56, wherein the absorbent article comprises that comprises, as a topsheet, a comprising the composition of Claim 1.

49. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article of Claim 48, said article selected from the group consisting of a disposable diaper, a disposable incontinence pad and a disposable feminine hygiene pad.

50. (Currently Amended) The An absorbent article of Claim 57, wherein the absorbent article comprises that comprises, as a topsheet, a comprising the composition of Claim 25.

51. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article of Claim 50, said article selected from the group consisting of a disposable diaper, a disposable incontinence pad and a disposable feminine hygiene pad.

Application No. 10/661,020
Preliminary Amendment Dated April 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005

52. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An absorbent article of Claim 56, said article comprising a topsheet, an intermediate layer, an absorbent layer, and a backsheet, wherein: (a) the intermediate layer is ~~the layer next to the topsheet~~, (b) ~~wherein the~~ topside surface of said ~~the~~ intermediate layer is ~~the surface in contact with the topsheet~~, (c) ~~and wherein~~ the intermediate layer is ~~a~~consists of the composition of Claim 1, and (d) ~~wherein said the~~ topside surface comprises the anionic surfactant and the polymeric biguanide.

53. (Original) An absorbent article of Claim 52, said article selected from the group consisting of a disposable diaper, a disposable incontinence pad and a disposable feminine hygiene pad.

54. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An absorbent article of Claim 57, said article comprising a topsheet, an intermediate layer an absorbent layer, and a backsheet, wherein: (a) the intermediate layer is ~~the layer next to the topsheet~~, (b) ~~wherein the~~ topside surface of said ~~the~~ intermediate layer is ~~the surface in contact with the topsheet~~, (c) ~~and wherein~~ the intermediate layer is ~~a~~consists of the composition of Claim 25, and (d) ~~wherein said the~~ topside surface is anionic and comprises the polymeric biguanide.

55. (Original) An absorbent article of Claim 54, said article selected from the group consisting of a disposable diaper, a disposable incontinence pad and a disposable feminine hygiene pad.

56. (New) An absorbent article comprising the composition of Claim 1.

57. (New) An absorbent article comprising the composition of Claim 25.

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